

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please ADD new claims 20-23, as follows. For the Examiner's convenience, all claims currently pending in this application have been reproduced below:

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A reflection type mask comprising:

a mask body including (a) a substrate, (b) a multi-layered film which is formed on said substrate, for reflecting X-rays, (c) a pattern which is formed on said multi-layered film for absorbing the X-rays; and

a cover for protecting said pattern,

wherein said cover includes a vent hole having a lid openably closeable to said vent hole, and at least a part of said cover being arranged so as to be detachably attachable to said mask body.

15. (Previously Presented) A reflection type mask according to claim 14, further comprising an alignment mark formed on said multi-layered film.

16. (Previously Presented) A reflection type mask according to claim 14, further comprising an alignment mark, wherein said cover protects said alignment mark.

17. (Previously Presented) A reflection type mask according to claim 16, wherein said alignment mark is formed on said multi-layered film.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A reflection type mask according to claim 14, wherein said vent hole is formed on a side surface of said cover.

20. (New) An X-ray mask comprising:

a mask body including a pattern for absorbing X-rays; and

a cover for protecting the pattern, which includes a vent hole,

wherein the cover encloses a surface of the mask body, on which the pattern is provided, and another surface opposite to the surface of said mask body, and is arranged so as to be detachably attachable to said mask body.

21. (New) An X-ray mask according to claim 20, wherein said mask body includes a membrane on which the pattern is formed and a substrate for supporting the membrane.

22. (New) An X-ray mask according to claim 20, wherein said cover includes a lid capable of opening and closing the vent hole.

23. (New) An X-ray mask according to claim 20, wherein said X-ray mask is arranged so as to be loaded into a mask cassette in a state in which the cover is attached onto said mask body.